

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11. (canceled).

12. (original) Composition for the use in the detection of microorganisms characterized by comprising a selective culture medium for the microorganism to be detected and reactants capable of altering the properties of the medium in a manner as to favor the interaction of the system fiber-microorganism.

13. (original) Composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the alteration is in the index of refraction of the system.

Claims 14-20. (canceled).